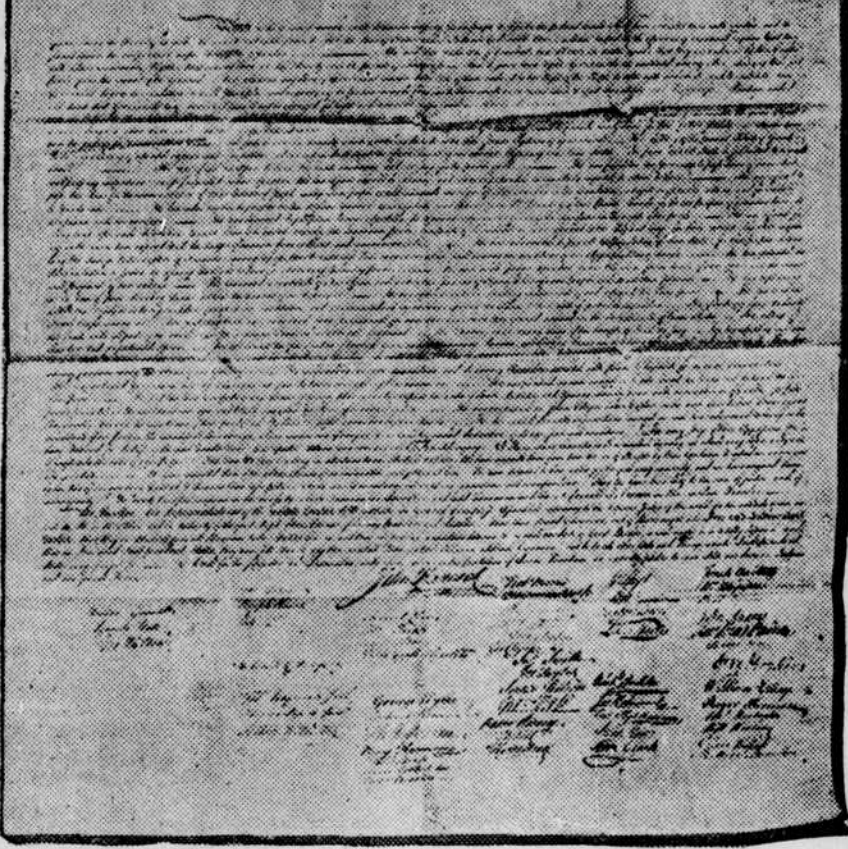


Secured Liberty

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.



The original Declaration itself and the desk on which it was written are preserved in the state department at Washington. The document, written on parchment in a bold hand and bearing the original signatures, was deposited with the department of state when the government was organized in 1789, and is still there, though sealed up in a steel case to preserve it from light and air, on account of the fading text and signatures, some of which have become illegible. That of John Hancock, which heads the names of the Massachusetts signers, is still conspicuous by its boldness, while that of Stephen Hopkins of Rhode Island still indicates the physical infirmity that made it almost impossible for him to write his name. Other historic names on the old document, some of them hardly legible, are Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert Morris, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Rush and others less famous. Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, gave the desk as a wedding present to a gentleman of Boston, who married Jefferson's granddaughter, and it remained in the family till 1880, when it was presented to President Hayes, who placed it in the state department building beside the immortal instrument which was written upon it in 1776.

DOCUMENT THAT MADE HISTORY

How the Immortal Declaration Was Drawn Up and Signed.

THE Fourth of July represents to the average American boy a great victory won some 140 years ago against overwhelming odds. He dimly remembers from his history lesson that something or other, called the Declaration of Independence, was signed that day in 1776. Sometimes he is not quite so sure of the date as that and he knows very little concerning the original document itself.

The original of the Declaration, written by hand on parchment, and now much worn and faded, is carefully preserved in an air-tight and light-proof case in the library of the department of state. Only facsimiles are exhibited today, the original being too precious a document to risk in the light and air.

A facsimile of the Declaration is on exhibition in the division of history in the older building of the National museum at Washington, where there are also preserved personal relics and mementos of several of the members of the second continental congress who signed this great resolution.

The history of the origin and drafting of the Declaration is of considerable interest. In the second continental congress, which was meeting in Philadelphia, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, on June 7, 1776, introduced the following resolution, which was seconded by John Adams:

"Resolved, That these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

"That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign alliances.

"That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective colonies for their approbation."

Consideration of this resolution was postponed, and on June 11, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and R. R. Livingston were appointed a committee to prepare a Declaration to serve as a preamble to this independence resolution. This committee, known as the Jefferson committee, submitted a draft of the Declaration on June 28, which was laid on the table for later consideration. On July 1 congress, sitting as a committee of the whole to consider the resolution respecting independence, agreed thereto, and reported it to congress.

On July 2 the resolution itself was adopted by congress, and the Declaration was considered by the committee of the whole, being taken up the next day, July 3.

On July 4 the Declaration, which included the first paragraph of the resolution, was agreed to by the committee of the whole, reported to congress, and adopted. The independence of the united colonies was thus declared, and thereupon congress immediately ordered that the Declaration be authenticated and printed under the supervision of the committee previously appointed to prepare it, and that copies thereof be distributed to all state assemblies and to the commanding officers of the army.

In accordance with the above order, the Declaration was issued as a printed broadside on July 5, with the heading: "In Congress, July 4, 1776. A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America in General Congress assembled." It bore the name in print of John Hancock, president of the congress, and was attested by Secretary Charles Thomson, but bore no other names.

On July 19 it was resolved in congress: "That the Declaration passed on the fourth be fairly engrossed on parchment, with the title and stile (style) of 'The unanimous declaration of the thirteen united States of America, and that the same, when engrossed, be signed by every member of congress."

It could not have been headed "Unanimous" on July 4, for the New York delegates had not then been authorized to agree to it, and it was not until July 15 that it was announced in the continental congress that the assembly of New York had approved the Declaration, and thus made it unanimous.

On August 2, 1776, the Declaration of Independence, being engrossed and compared, was signed by the members; those who were not present on August 2 affixing their signatures at later dates, all but one signing before January 18, 1777.

It has been ascertained that of the fifty-six signers, more than one-fourth were not present on July 4, 1776, and seven of them—Thornton, Williams, Rush, Clymer, Smith, Taylor and Ross—were not members on that date. On the other hand, seven members on that date—George Clinton, John Alsop, R. R. Livingston, Henry Wisner, Thomas Willing, Charles Humphreys and John Rogers—had not the privilege of becoming "signers," for the membership of all but one had ceased prior to August 2.

The first official issue of the Declaration bearing the names of the signers was printed as a broadside in Baltimore under the resolution of January 18, 1777, ordering that copies be sent to each of the United States. There are only four copies of this issue now known to exist, one of which is in the library of congress at Washington. It is authenticated in writing by John Hancock as president of congress and attested by Secretary Thomson.

Contrary to popular opinion, therefore, it is seen that the Declaration was not signed on July 4, the day it passed, but between August 2, 1776, and January 18, 1777, after it had been engrossed and compared, and then only by 55 members, all of whom were ordered to do so by the resolution passed July 19, 1776. The name of Thomas McKean, which does not appear among the signers in the printed copy, was added later—possibly not until 1781, making the fifty-sixth signer.

But little has ever been done to perpetuate the memory of these 56 early Americans, only a few of whom are well-known, but it is interesting to know that the National Society of the Sons of American Revolution, in co-operation with the Society of Descendants of the signers, is locating the graves of those patriots, and preparing a memorial volume to include a biography of each individual.

AMERICA'S PRIDE



AMERICA'S DEBT TO LAFAYETTE

Washington Paid Tribute to Great Services Rendered.

WHEN the Revolution began Americans were still pioneers and straight shooters. The country was full of men who had seen service in war against the French and Indians. Washington had been all his life a soldier. It is not surprising that American officers felt quite able to handle the military situation without assistance from the host of applicants for commissions from abroad. Therefore when Washington heard that a young Frenchman named Lafayette had left his wife and child and crossed the ocean to serve the American cause as a volunteer without pay, he muttered: "One more incumbrance." But Lafayette pleaded: "Give me a chance; I do not want to be an honorary soldier."

He went to Washington's camp and there began a friendship which ran through so many years like an idyl. In 1788 Brissot visited Washington at Mt. Vernon with a letter from Lafayette.



Lafayette.

He says Washington "spoke to me of M. De Lafayette with emotion; he considers him as his child." Later, Lafayette sent to Washington the key to the destroyed Bastille, saying: "It is a tribute which I owe as a son to my adopted father, as an aid-de-camp to my general, as a missionary of liberty to its patriarch."

French Eager in Liberty's Cause. The spirit of Lafayette was the spirit of Rochambeau's army. A host of young French officers looked on the expedition as a crusade for liberty, and crowded for places. Young Berthier was a volunteer at Yorktown, and he became a marshal of France. Viscount

De Noailles marched afoot the whole 756 miles from Newport to Yorktown. Young Saint-Simon, Clousen, Chastellux, a brother of Mirabeau, a brother of Talleyrand, Barras, later Director Barras, and many other enthusiasts for liberty were in the expedition. They understood Americans. Equality was the particular American trait which impressed them most, and this idea was imported by them from America into France.

Rochambeau placed himself and his army under the command of Washington. The ragged Americans always had the right of the line. In case of equality of rank, the American officer always took command. Not so much as a cabbage was taken without payment. Before Yorktown the Americans were not skilled in siege operations, and Washington gratefully acknowledged the service of the French engineers. The French fleet closed the river, and the surrender came. Without that French help we tremble to think what might have happened.

Fired Lafayette's Ardor.

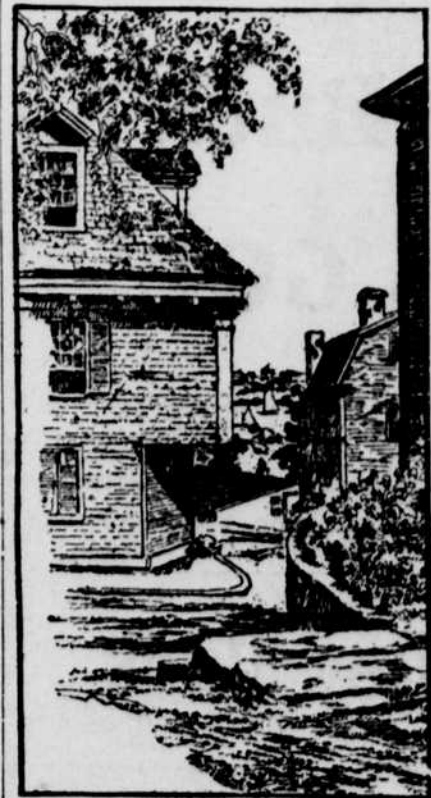
Toward the close of the year 1776, the duke of Cumberland, who was the brother of King George III of England, was traveling in France, and one day he arrived at the town of Metz, then a French possession. A certain count De Broglie, a veteran of many battles, was in command of the garrison, and, to do honor to his distinguished visitor, he invited some of his officers to meet him at dinner. Now it happened that the duke of Cumberland was in disfavor with his royal brother—he was, in fact, in banishment. He had lately received news that certain of his majesty's colonies in America had rebelled and declared themselves free, declining to be subject any longer to a tyrannical king. It would seem that the duke of Cumberland told the story with some gusto, as if he were not altogether sorry that his brother was in trouble. One officer listened with particular attention. He was a youth of nineteen, tall and thin, with a long nose and reddish hair. His solemn expression and his somewhat awkward manner contrasted strongly with the frivolous ease and grace of the other young officers present. He was a marquis of long descent, connected by marriage with one of the greatest families in France, and he had at his own disposition a very large income. He listened intently, he asked many eager questions, and when he rose from the table he had made a momentous and historic resolution. He had resolved to abandon the pleasures and luxuries of the gayest court in the world, even to leave his young wife and child, and to cast in his lot with these strange rebels in America. In his own words, "When first I heard of American independence, my heart was enlisted!" That young man was Lafayette; and when the American army went to the front in France, it merely paid a small part of the debt of gratitude we owe that splendid young officer—that true nobleman.

Appointed a major general by Wash-

ington in July, he fought at the battle of Brandywine in September and received an ugly wound. Soon again in the saddle, he went through many vicissitudes and privations with Washington at Valley Forge, his crowning exploit being the forcing of the retreat of Lord Cornwallis, leading to his surrender at Yorktown, in 1781. Although Washington and other famous American generals had joined him previous to the surrender, Lafayette, with a small force, had initiated the rout of Cornwallis at the battle of Albemarle. That the highest credit was due to Lafayette is shown by the fact that Washington warmly thanked and complimented him in the presence of the troops, after the great surrender which practically ended the war.

Patriot of Marblehead.

General Lafayette paid a tribute to Marblehead, Mass., by making two visits to the people, by whom he was



An Old-Time Patriot Cut Off the Corner of His House That Lafayette's Carriage Might Go Through His Street.

received with bands of music and a huge procession of citizens. It is related that on his first visit in 1784 there was a controversy as to how the procession was to proceed through the main streets of the town, owing to the fact that at one of the sharp turns, a house so jutted into the road that the general's coach could not pass. On the morning of the great event, it was discovered that the patriotic family occupying the property had cut off a section of the house, removing the offending corner and thus the coach was driven without a hitch through the street. The house with part of the first story missing can still be seen in this year of 1919, and is shown in the illustration.

Wedding Gifts

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COULD NOT HOLD ARMADILLO

Writer Admits Underestimating the Strength of Little Animal He Was Trying to Capture.

When he was a small boy, W. H. Hudson, the author of "Far Away and Long Ago," came to grief while he was attempting single-handed to capture an armadillo. One day, he says, I was standing on the mound at the side of a moat, some 40 yards from where men were at work, when an armadillo bolted from his earth and, running to the very spot where I was, standing, began vigorously digging to bury himself in the soil.

Neither men nor dogs had seen him, and I at once determined to capture him unaided by anyone. I imagined that it would prove to be a very easy task. Accordingly, I laid hold of his black, bone-cased tail with both hands and began tugging to get him off the ground, but could not move him. He went on digging furiously, and getting deeper and deeper into the earth, and I soon found that instead of my pulling him out he was pulling me in after him. It hurt my pride to think that an animal no larger than a cat was beating me in a trial of strength, and I held on more tenaciously than ever and tugged and strained more violently, until—not to lose him—I had to go down flat on the ground.

But it was all for nothing. First my hands and then my aching arms were carried down into the earth, and I was forced to release my hold and get up to rid myself of the mold that he had been throwing up into my face and all over my head, neck and shoulders.—Youth's Companion.

EPIGRAM IS NOT GREELEY'S

Great Editor Long Wrongly Credited With Advice, "Go West, Young Man, Go West."

The famous epigram "Go West, young man, go West," so commonly attributed to the pen of Horace Greeley, was not written first by that venerable editor of the New York Tribune, but by John L. B. Soule, editor of the Terre Haute Express. In 1851 Richard Thompson, afterward secretary of the navy, urged Soule to go west and grow up with the country, and praised the editor's talents as a writer. He wagered a barrel of flour that Soule could write an article that would be attributed to Horace Greeley.

The result of the suggestion was a column editorial about the West's opportunities for young men. It declared that Horace Greeley could never have given a young man better advice than contained in the words, "Go West, young man." Although stated merely as Soule thought Greeley might have put it, newspapers all over the country began to credit Greeley with the epigram. So widespread did the quotation become that Greeley's paper reprinted the editorial from the Express, with the following footnote:

"The expression of this sentiment has been attributed to the editor of the Tribune erroneously. But so fully does he concur in the advice it gives that he indorses most heartily the epigrammatic advice of the Terre Haute Express, and joins in saying, 'Go West, young man, go West.'"

Sky Went Along.

A woman was leaving a home where she had been very happy, and, as she boarded the train which was to take her away, the tears came fast. Her little son, anxious to comfort her, tried the effect of a cheering discovery he had just made. "Why, mother," he exclaimed, "the sky is going right along with us." Other faint-hearted people need to make the same discovery. No matter what we leave behind, the best goes with us.

A Russell Story.

A story that the late G. W. H. Russell told with gusto was of a mayor in a north of England town. His workshop presented some seats for the sea front, and had this inscribed on them: "Presented to the borough by the mayor, Ald. Roggins. The sea is his and he made it."—London Chronicle.

Peculiar Feeling.

Celia had been ill for many weeks. One day when she was stronger and had been put in a chair, she slipped down to the floor and stood for a moment on her feet. "Oh," she said, in a much surprised voice, "I feel heavy to myself."

Proper Food Important.

"As a man thinketh so is he." Yes; but also: "As a man eateth so doth he think." For the brain, a part of the body, is built of food.—Los Angeles Times.